

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 13 and 14 to delete the reference to “a specified period,” thereby removing the basis for the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of these claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-15 over Bandow.

Prior art multi-wall carbon nanotubes were manufactured with a step of heating hybrid structures, or else irradiating hybrid structures with electron beam irradiation. A known problem with electron beam irradiation in these structures was damage to the walls of the nanotube. Bandow is typical of this prior art.

In the present invention, multi-wall carbon nanotubes are manufactured by electron beam irradiation while the hybrid structures are in a heated state, are being heated, or are being heated simultaneously with the irradiation. Irradiating while in the heated state, irradiating while being heated, or simultaneous heating and irradiation, accelerates recovery from damage to the nanotube walls caused by the electron beam irradiation, as recited in new claims 22-24.

Applicant has added new claims 20-24 to recite these features of the invention. Bandow neither discloses nor suggests irradiating while in a heated state, irradiating a heated hybrid structure, or simultaneous heating and irradiating, as recited in amended claim 1, its dependent claims, or the new claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, and 10, but respectfully submits that it is premature to amend these claims to be independent claims, until the Examiner considers the present amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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